

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NRC-05 /105 W
-----040829 081246Z /75

R 080827Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3985
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 3382

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, AG, MR. SS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF SAHARA CONFLICT

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1389, (B) DAKAR 875 (NOTAL)

1. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR OUANES, WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED
TO MALI AND MAURITANIA, PREDICTED LAST FEBRUARY THAT
MALI WOULD BE INVOLVED IN A MEDIATION EFFORT BETWEEN
MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA/POLISARIO (REFTEL B). DURING
PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED CALL MAY 5, I ASKED OUANES WHAT HE
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COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE COMING MEETING THE ORGANIZATION
OF SAHARAN STATES AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MALI'S ROLE IN
ANY MEDIATION EFFORT.

2. OUANES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT MALI'S MAIN OBJECTIVE
AT THE SAHARAN MEETING WILL BE TO PERSUADE ALGERIA TO
AGREE TO THE JOINT EXPLOITATION OF A URANIUM DEPOSIT

THAT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN DISCOVERED SITTING ASTRIDE THE MALI-ALGERIAN BORDER. OUANES SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE ON THE BORDER THE DEPOSIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE LOCATED. IN RETURN FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT, MALI IS READY TO TILT TOWARD ALGERIA ON THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM, AND WILL PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THE SAHARAOUI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. OUANES SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW FOR SURE, BUT ASSUMES THAT MALI'S EFFORTS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA ARE CONTINUING WITH ALGERIA'S BLESSING IN THE HOPE OF SEPARATING MAURITANIA FROM MOROCCO.

3. COMMENT: FROM THIS OPTIC, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A MOE TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA COULD BE MADE WITHOUT MOROCCO.
COHEN

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